

TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Medical Officer's Report for the year ending December 31st, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948.

As the year in question is noteworthy by the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, many changes in health administration have taken place, and are likely to be more fully developed as and when time permits. One such change has been the regulation whereby part-time Medical Officers were replaced, through the regrouping of smaller districts with neighbouring districts having whole-time officials, by one official who would undertake the work entailed for the larger area so constituted.

Acting, therefore, upon the advice of the Cheshire County Council, your Council appointed myself as Medical Officer of Health as from the 5th July, on which date the services so well rendered in the past by Dr. N. E. Fenton were terminated.

Due to the fact that such a vast project was inaugurated throughout the country with insufficient available personnel, delays in the transitional stage have occurred. One result has been that, although my duties have been extended in the capacity of a Medical Officer of Health, the authorities responsible for relieving me of hospital work - amounting to 50% of my duties - had not been able to release me by the end of the year.

Consequent upon this, and through having such diverse duties, I regret that delay has occurred in presenting the statistical figures relating to the year in question. The time at my disposal has had to be devoted only to the most urgent matters occurring in my official capacity.

It might be opportune to make it clear upon this occasion that, while your Medical Officer is responsible to your Council for environmental health services, such as the prevention of Infectious Diseases, Housing, Water Supply, Food Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, he also acts as Divisional Medical Officer of the Cheshire County Council, and is responsible to that authority - the new Local Health Authority - through a Divisional Health Committee for services within your Council's area relating to:-

Maternity and Child Welfare  
Midwifery  
Health Visiting  
Home Nursing  
Vaccination and Immunisation



2.

Care and After Care during illness  
Domestic Help  
Mental Health  
Education in Health  
Ambulance Transport.

The latter services form part of the Cheshire Divisional Scheme of Administration, and come under the purview of the Hyde, Longdendale and Tintwistle Divisional Committee, upon which your Council is represented by two members.

Prior to the 5th July the Cheshire County Council was already administering some of these services e.g., School Medical, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Immunisation, whereas Ambulance transport was administered by a neighbouring Borough. Since that date these, along with the other services innumarated above, are available to the residents of Tintwistle and are administered from a central Divisional Office located in the Borough of Hyde.

Early in the new era steps were taken to make available to the mothers and children clinic facilities in Christ Church School at which a doctor and a nurse, assisted by voluntary personnel, attend on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month. This local development must be a boon to the area, hitherto served only by the distant clinic at Hollingworth.

Improved facilities whereby greater nursing facilities would be available in the home of the sick and infirm were being developed at the termination of the year.

These developments, although not the responsibility of the Tintwistle Council, are mentioned here as matters which concern the general health service in the area.

It would seem customary to record herein figures relating to Births, Deaths, and Infectious Diseases, and I therefore submit these for the whole year, although I am in a position to accept responsibility only for the period following the 4th July.

The population for 1948, as estimated by the Registrar General was 1219 compared with 1208 for 1947, and of 1204 for 1938.

The number of Live Births registered was - Males 10, Females 9: Total 19.

There were no Still-births recorded.

The Birth Rate for the year was therefore 15.6 compared with a figure ~~for~~ England and Wales of 17.9, and 13.2 for 1938.

There was 1 Death among infants under 12 months of age, which gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 52.6 per thousand births, as compared with a figure for England and Wales of 34.0 and of Nil for 1938.



### 3.

The number of Deaths registered was - Males 4, Females 6: Total 10.

The causes of Death were:-

Cancer	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2
Heart Diseases	4
Pneumonia	1
Nephritis	1
Other Diseases	1

The Annual Death Rate for the year was therefore 8.2 per thousand compared with a figure for England and Wales of 10.8.

#### Infectious Diseases.

Records prior to the 5th July are not in my possession. Eight cases of Whooping Cough have occurred since that date.

It is worthy of note that no cases of Infantile Paralysis have occurred since this distressing condition became a major problem to control in this country during recent years.

Likewise no cases of Diphtheria have been recorded, and I trust that no parent will fail to take advantage of the facilities now offered to protect their children from contracting this preventable disease.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remains at the same figure as in 1947 i.e. 4 cases of the non-pulmonary character, there being no new cases recorded during 1948.

#### General Sanitation.

I am appreciative of the assistance given to me by Mr. H. Dane your Sanitary Inspector through whose valuable experience the Council will benefit in the aspects of hygiene with which he is entrusted.

Information relating to his duties and the work carried out by him will, I have no doubt, already be in your possession. In future years information relating to this aspect of the Council's responsibilities will be embodied in Annual Reports.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

F. W. C. BROWN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Buildings,  
Greenfield Street,  
HYDE.  
October, 1949.



